

**Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**09/24/18 2:00 - 3:00pm | Burruss Hall 130**

**Attendees:** Debbie Greer for M. Dwight Shelton, Jr., John Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Ken Black for Liza Morris, Denny Cochrane, Jeff Orzolek, Rob Lowe, Virgilio Centeno, Edward Lener, Sean McGinnis, Erin Hopkins (conference call), Judy Taylor, Alan Grant, Angie De Soto

**Guests:** Barbara Wise, Judy Booze-Daniels, and Kate Franczek

**Welcoming Remarks and Introductions**

**Meeting Agenda Approved**

**Approved Minutes from Previous Meeting on April 23, 2018 Reviewed**

**Old Business**

**2017-2018 Green RFP Results and Implementation Status**

- 48 Student Proposals Submitted (highest ever)
- 12 Proposals Approved (highest ever) for \$125,410 (second highest ever)
- 8 Proposals have been Completed:
  - Residence Hall Interior LED Lighting for President's Quad
  - Residence Hall LED Lighting for Pritchard Study Lounges
  - Dining Services OZZI Reusable To-Go Containers
  - Sidewalk LED Lighting for Pres & West End Dining to Cheatham Hall
  - Water Bottle Refill Stations for Cowgill Hall (1) & Burchard Hall (1)
  - Water Bottle Refill Stations for Latham Hall (2)
  - Water Bottle Refill Station for Derring Hall (1)
  - Pollinator Habitat Hotels for the Hahn Horticulture Garden
- 2 Proposals are Ongoing:
  - Riparian Restoration at Stroubles Creek
  - Residence Hall Indoor Collection bins for the Y-Toss Program
- 2 Proposals to be Implemented during AY 2018-2019:
  - Native Trees for Earth Week
  - Stadium Woods Infrastructure Upgrades and Signage

**Policy 5505: Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction**

- Vice President for Operations Dr. Sherwood G. Wilson is the approving authority
- Subcommittee to review and revise Policy 5505 formed last spring semester
- Subcommittee Chair Jeff Orzolek, Members Debbie Greer, Vince Centeno & Rob Lowe
- During the summer we discovered the university is revising its policy format. Policies are to be general in nature with Process & Procedures documents containing specific details
- Subcommittee will resume work during AY 2018-2019 using new policy guidance

## New Business

### **Sustainability Week 2018 Highlights**

- Sustainability Week is the university's flagship sustainability outreach program.
- Begun in 2007 as a Green Partnership with the Town of Blacksburg, the local citizens group Sustainable Blacksburg and Virginia Tech, the program is held annually during the third week in September.
- Sustainability Week is recognized as a model for the Commonwealth of Virginia and it has received Governor Environmental Excellence Awards in 2008 and 2017
- Sustainability Week 2018 was held during the period September 15-23 and had over 25 events. Highlights included a Bike Parade led by Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith, Active Commute Celebration which showcased the new Bike Share Program for Virginia Tech and the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, numerous educational events at the Blacksburg Library and the YMCA, kids activities such as a movie at the Lyric, and conversations on topics of interest such as the Mountain Valley Pipeline and sustainability upgrades at the Radford Arsenal.
- The School of Visual Arts (College of Architecture and Urban Studies) hosted the well-known artist Willie Cole. Using 20,000 empty plastic water bottles, he engaged students to create cubical shaped structures for display outside of Media Building.

### **Office of Sustainability Student Internship Program**

- Karlee Siepierski (Campus Sustainability Planner) oversees the program
- 20 student participants for AY 2018-2019
- Goal is to have students work on tangible projects versus outreach activities
- Students placed in one of four teams (5 students per team). Team names & projects:
  - Energy Team- Electric Vehicle Charging Station Master Plan
  - Water Team - Stormwater Best Management Practices & Stormwater Education Days event
  - Food Team - Sustainable Story Map, working w/ GIS to map out sustainable features on campus
  - Waste Team - Styrofoam Recycling Pilot Program

### **Green Tailgate Recycling for Home Football Games**

- Office of Sustainability has hired an undergraduate Green Recycling Intern this year
- First home game was held on 9/8 and we set up inside the "Hokie Village" - we created a model Green Tailgate site (reusable utensils, cooler, and compostable supplies).
- Recycled 1,320 lbs - the amount was low because many of the water bottles went to the Willie Cole art project. These bottles will eventually be recycled.
- 3 remaining home games for recycling (10/6 vs. Notre Dame, 10/25 vs/ Georgia Tech, and 11/3 vs. Boston College (we don't hold these events during the Thanksgiving Break).

- We are actively recruiting volunteers to go from tailgate to tailgate informing tailgaters on what can and cannot be recycled, as well as handing out blue recycling bags
- Link to volunteer <https://goo.gl/forms/dN91Hq59Yux1aY4Z2>

### **2018-2019 Student Green RFP Program**

- AY 2018-2019 Green RFP Memorandum from Dr. Chris Kiwus (Associate VP for Facilities and Chief Facilities Officer) launched the program, on 9/7.
- The Memorandum contains background information, the proposal form, the process to be used and timelines, and a subject matter expert contact list (new). The intent of the list is to provide students with technical assistance in the preparation of their proposals.
- Office of Sustainability website has copies of all approved Green RFPs which is a valuable reference.
- Timeline for the program:
  - Sept. 7 - Green RFP 2017-2018 announcement
  - Nov 9- Proposal deadline to Office of Sustainability
  - Nov 26- Office of Sustainability coordinates proposal review
  - Jan 28- E&SC appoints Subcommittee to review & prioritize proposals
  - Feb 25- Subcommittee presents recommendations to E&SC for approval
  - Mar 1- E&SC presents proposals to the Office of Budget & Financial Planning
  - Mar/Apri- OBFP convenes BUdget Review Committee- identifies funding sources
  - Apr/May- Select proposals approved- implementation initiated
- Question from Erin Hopkins about whether students remain active with project after semester? She is interested in having her fall semester students submit proposals as part of class assignment. Answer: Yes, for the most part. Unless proposals need some minor editing during evaluation process
- Reviewed the evaluation criteria: :
  - Does the proposal help to achieve the goals of the VT Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan?
  - Does the proposal generate savings that exceed the cost of implementation?
  - Does the proposal pertain to energy reduction/conservation that produces cost savings? Does the funding request address a one-time or an ongoing need?
  - Does the proposal leverage other sources of funding or volunteer effort?

### **Open Discussion**

- Chair initiated open discussion to solicit additional topic suggestions for AY 2018-2019
- Suggestions from the members included:
  - Members are very interested in having student presentations to showcase their sustainability projects and activities.
  - Vince Centeno suggested reaching out to his Electrical and Computer Engineering students for presentations
  - June 1, 2009 marks the 10 year anniversary of when the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors unanimously approved our Climate Action Commitment. Angie De Soto recommended we take the time to assess our progress. What goals did we meet

and what does did we not meet? Perhaps we should create a working group to develop our strategy for the next phase of our sustainability program.

- Many members recommend the Committee received Energy Management Updates from our Campus Energy Manager Ruben Avagyan.
- Committee was very interested in our new Bike Share Program that was launched just prior to the 2018 fall semester. We will ask our Director of Parking and Transportation Jeri Baker to provide an update on this program this fall.
- Dean Alan Grant recommended having an update on the ongoing study to have a comprehensive composting program at Virginia Tech later this year.
- Jody Booze-Daniel has recently discovered pallets in trash dumpsters and voiced concerns that these should be recycled. Ken Black commented on the experience he has had with reusing pallets in a number of his student projects.
- We should engage students in residential outreach or projects
- Chair Denny Cochrane announced the 2018 Sustainability Annual Report is being finalized for presentation to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors at their regularly scheduled meeting on November 4 and 5. He will provide members with a copy when appropriate.

**Next Meeting on October 22, 2018, Burruss Hall, Conference Room 130, at 2:00pm**

**Meeting Adjourned**